

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending April 14, 2002

WEEK IN BRIEF:

Spring Rain and Windy Conditions Limited Fieldwork Tulip Bloom Two Weeks Later than Normal

FIELD CROPS

Heavy spring rain and very windy conditions persisted on the western half of the state for several days. The rivers were all very high, but no flooding was reported. Snow levels remained low for April at 2000 feet. Fieldwork continued with seeding operations wrapping up in western Whitman County and beginning in the eastern half. The winter wheat crop looked good with considerable growth in the past week. In Skagit County, some potato growers were harvesting last year's spuds planted on higher ground, and others started planting this year's crop.

LIVESTOCK

Livestock producers were fencing hayfields for spring grazing. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields. Pastures were showing signs of growth with the warm weather, but some still had standing water. In Grant County, wool harvest was about half completed. Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 10% poor, 47% fair, 40% good, and 1% excellent.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Greenhouse tomato growers reported plants have nearly doubled in size over the last ten days due to increased day length and temperature. Tulip bloom is about two weeks later than normal. Organic truck gardeners continued planting early season vegetables and preparing fields for warm season vegetable crops. Asparagus harvest began in Franklin County. In Grant, mustard seed planting was completed while radish seed and onion planting neared completion.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
4.3	6.3

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	3	87	10
Subsoil	0	10	87	3
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay and Roughage	13	7	79	1
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	58	39	50	55
Spring Wheat Emerged	16	15	16	23
Barley Planted	41	19	28	38
Barley Emerged	5	4	11	12
Potatoes Planted	28	24	25	31
Potatoes Emerged	6	5	4	7
Corn Planted	9	3	4	9
Dry Peas Planted	8	3	14	15
Dry Edible Beans Planted	5	1	0	0
Proc. Green Peas Planted	15	2	24	11

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	2	38	52	7
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	73	26	1
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
Barley Dryland	0	0	78	22	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Grays Harbor: Rain showers throughout the week continued to keep fields too wet to begin cultivation. Asian pear orchards were in full bloom. Christmas tree growers started fertilizing plantations. Livestock producers were fencing hayfields for spring grazing. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields. Spring flower bulb growers reported excellent cut flower sales. Retail nurserymen reported strong early sales for flowering perennials. Greenhouse tomato growers reported plants had nearly doubled in size over the last ten days due to increased day length and temperature.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Heavy rains over the weekend delayed spring work even more.

Clallam, Jefferson, Snohomish & North King: Heavy spring rain and very windy conditions occurred for several days. The temperatures were in the 50's for several days and in the 40's over the weekend. The rivers were all very high but no flooding was reported. Some pastures were showing signs of growth, but many still had standing water. The first part of the week had normal spring weather. The weekend was cold, wet, and windy. The snow level was still low at about 2,000 feet.

Pierce/ South King: Crop conditions were below normal for this time of year. The weather was cold and wet. Above normal rainfall for the week of April 7-14 made crop fields inaccessible. Pastures looked good.

Skagit: Some potato growers harvested last year's potatoes, planted on higher ground, and others started to plant this year's crop. Apple growers were applying second scab sprays. Several acres of apples were being pulled out due to the economic downturn in the industry. Tulip bloom was about two weeks later than normal, with tourists viewing fields of daffodils in full bloom instead. Seed companies were digging beet bulbs for later planting in production fields. Most growers were anxiously waiting for the temperatures to warm and the soils to dry before starting field operations.

Thurston: Ag producers took advantage of fair weather between showers during the week to continue with spring activities. Turfgrass growers continued mowing in an attempt to keep up with rapid grass growth. Turfgrass sales continued to increase as spring weather arrived. Livestock producers were fertilizing pastures. Christmas tree growers finished up on herbicide applications and applied fertilizer to tree plantations. Some growers reported higher than usual infestations of Silver Spotted Tiger Moths. Organic truck gardeners continued planting early season vegetables and preparing fields for warm season vegetable crops. Blueberry growers mowed cover crops planted between berry rows. Retail nurseries reported excellent sales of early blooming perennials.

Whatcom: Fieldwork was stopped by rains.

CENTRAL

Franklin: The weather was sunny and warm for much of the week and often windy. At week's end, however, rain and cooler temperatures arrived. Asparagus harvest began. Potato planting continued, as did planting of carrots, wheat and barley.

Grant: Sweet corn planting continued. Radish seed and onion planting neared completion. Mustard seed planting was completed. Wool harvest was about half completed

and cattle were being turned onto rangeland.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from normal to 14 degrees above normal, with a low temperature of 27 degrees on April 8. Precipitation for the week was .22 of an inch. No crop damage due to weather conditions were reported.

EASTERN

Adams: Spring cereal seeding was completed in Adams County and was emerging slowly but okay because of cold soil temperatures. Overall, winter wheat was in fair condition and about 5 percent was looking very good and 5 percent was looking very poor.

Asotin/Garfield: Dry weather allowed spring planting to progress normally. Rain on Saturday halted fieldwork for a day or two, but helped keep topsoil moisture in good condition for planting. The winter wheat crop was in good condition with very little reseeding this spring. Rangeland and pastures

finally started to grow now that the weather is warmer. Many were in poor condition from last year's drought and cold weather in March.

Lincoln: Spring cereal seeding was in full swing this week. Winter wheat was primarily in fair condition. Both surface and subsoil moisture looked mostly adequate for this time of year.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Rainfall was received this past week. The amount of rain varied across the two counties. Very little fieldwork was done due to the rain. The crops started to look better with the sunlight and warmer temperatures.

Stevens: Topsoil was very dry at the beginning of the week. Rainfall was received during the last part of the week, as well as the weekend.

Whitman: Fieldwork continued with seeding operations wrapping up in the western part of the county and beginning in the eastern half. The northwest part of the county reported dry conditions. Drizzling rains were received through most of the week with more significant accumulations occurring on the weekend. However, it was accompanied by very windy conditions.

Whitman (2nd Report): Spring seeding of cereals progressed rapidly across the county with only some brief delays due to scattered rain showers. Pasture conditions improved with the warmer daytime temperatures. The winter wheat crop looked very good, with considerable growth in the past week.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

April 15, 2002

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	32	60	50	4	14	7	0	0	1.21	0.58	6	28.86	0.89	103	124
Everett	37	59	50	3	13	6	0	0	0.73	0.07	6	27.39	-0.60	98	130
Hoquiam	32	64	50	2	5	-3	0	0	3.09	1.98	6	58.73	1.03	102	142
Kelso	30	70	53	5	25	14	0	0	2.08	1.24	5	37.12	-0.67	98	124
Olympia	26	63	50	5	16	9	0	0	3.11	2.29	6	54.12	10.93	125	134
Seattle-Tacoma	36	59	50	3	12	5	0	0	3.29	2.72	6	33.96	2.99	110	118
Shelton	29	62	49	1	7	-5	0	0	3.54	2.51	6	65.67	8.99	116	134
Tacoma	28	61	51	3	20	13	0	0	1.00	0.30	4	26.26	-6.71	80	100
Vancouver	34	68	55	7	34	23	0	0	1.57	0.90	5	33.21	-0.70	98	123
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	29	66	48	3	5	-2	0	0	0.52	0.38	5	5.72	-1.19	83	65
Omak	31	75	52	8	25	19	3	3	0.13	-0.09	4	7.78	-2.00	80	59
Stampede Pass	25	51	38	5	0	0	0	0	1.61	0.38	5	67.06	-1.74	97	127
Wenatchee	37	71	53	4	22	6	0	0	0.19	0.03	2	4.18	-2.04	67	48
Yakima AP	27	76	52	5	22	8	2	2	0.22	0.08	5	4.85	-1.36	78	48
NORTHEAST															
Colville	36	74	52	8	19	12	1	1	0.42	0.07	3	12.17	-2.80	81	66
Deer Park	25	69	47	4	10	3	0	0	1.18	0.86	5	18.27	4.97	137	96
Spokane AP	28	70	48	4	10	3	0	0	0.85	0.57	6	11.00	-0.81	93	87
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	34	73	53	4	20	3	0	0	0.15	0.02	4	4.36	-1.12	80	49
Moses Lake	30	73	53	5	28	11	3	3	0.22	0.09	3	3.98	-1.50	73	51
Quincy	34	72	54	6	30	15	2	2	0.16	0.02	2	5.20	-0.74	88	49
Ritzville	27	68	50	5	14	7	0	0	0.38	0.17	1	8.48	0.00	100	63
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	30	71	56	3	46	15	1	-1	0.23	0.12	2	4.45	-0.68	87	39
Pasco	28	75	58	6	59	32	9	9	0.14	0.05	3	3.95	-1.80	69	42
Pullman	29	67	49	6	9	2	0	0	0.83	0.48	6	14.73	-0.93	94	86
Walla Walla AP	31	70	54	4	35	13	2	2	0.56	0.14	5	11.50	-3.19	78	82
Whitman Mission	30	73	56	7	42	25	3	1	0.31	0.03	5	9.57	-0.50	95	74
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	30	66	48	3	12	5	0	0	1.76	1.34	5	15.29	-3.54	81	93
Lewiston ID	36	74	55	6	38	19	5	5	0.37	0.09	5	7.53	-0.25	97	72

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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